

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:21pm. Selectmen present were: Wes Moore, James McIlroy, and Michael Woodworth. Others present were: Police Chief Reed, Larry Arend, Katie Arend, Peggy Arend, Peter Allen, Lynn Stollstorff, Natalie Fream, and Lara Bricker.

Chief Reed asked the Selectmen to sign an appointment for a newly hired part-time police officer. The appointment was signed.

James made a motion to sign the Mosquito Control Special Permit Application. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The re-appointments of Ray Buxton and Scott Buxton as E9-1-1 Liaisons were signed.

James made the following statement to be recorded in the public record:

Welcome everyone, I would like to open the meeting by going over some rules and procedures I expect you to follow. First, as a public meeting you all have the right to be here. You do not however have the right to speak. No one will be allowed to speak unless I recognize them, and if I request they stop speaking than they must do so or be escorted out by the Police. This includes the Selectmen.

At last week's Selectmen's Meeting there was a situation that arose that I believe needs to be addressed on the record. In this meeting we will specifically NOT be discussing the sidewalk snow issue itself as action items are still being worked on. Also, we will not be reliving or rehashing the events of last week beyond my statements putting them into the public record.

Prior to the meeting during a citizen communication, Michael Woodworth used poor judgment in choosing what I believe to be an unnecessary and insensitive word to describe a citizen's complaint.

During the course of last week's meeting this inappropriate word choice was raised, which then led to a period of out of order behavior. During this time Michael's actions, including his tone, insensitive words, and lack of tact did not meet the high standard set for our elected officials. The Board has counseled Michael on this mistake and he has apologized and stated that he understands the expectations upon him and is committed to living up to them.

Michael then spoke – “I’d like to apologize to everyone that was at the meeting last week that I became angry.” He added that it was inappropriate for him to display his anger and that it was not his intention to offend anyone on the street or in the meeting.

James then continued with his statement:

Also, during the meeting I raised my voice and used my hand as a gavel to regain control. I have spoken (or left a message in one case) with each of the participants at last week’s meeting but I wanted to put on record how sorry I am for the unfortunate events of the meeting and that I apologize for my actions.

I believe that we all have good intentions here. I want to reiterate that the Selectmen take the issue of snow plowing of the sidewalks seriously as reflected by our overall response and actions taken over the past weeks. This issue is very solvable and we are committed to addressing it.

With regard to the minutes of last week, I can confirm that they will reflect the sidewalk snow removal issues that have been raised as well as how we are moving forward on the issue. However, minutes are not meant to capture every comment or idea that comes up in a discussion. They will reflect the issue appropriately, any decisions made, and how things are moving forward.

Thank you all for your involvement and interest in our community and we look forward to continue to productively working together on this and other issues.

Larry Arend asked if Michael would be censured by the other Selectmen. James feels his statement covers that issue. Peggy Arend asked for assurance that this type of incident would not happen again. Both James and Michael have apologized and no one foresees this type of incident happening in the future. Now is the time to heal and move forward.

At 6:55pm the meeting adjourned so that the Public Hearing on the 2008 Budget could convene.

At 8:20pm the Selectmen’s Meeting was called back to order.

Checks were signed

It was decided to exclude any non-resident reports from the annual Town Report.

Correspondence from Plodzik & Sanderson, PA advising the Town of their resignation as auditor was reviewed.

The NH DOT report on the Spaulding Turnpike was reviewed and is available in the Town Office if anyone wishes to review it.

The report from the Cemetery Trustees was reviewed. It was noted that the department is returning \$17,246.50 to the Town for fiscal year 2007.

The Selectmen discussed the sidewalk issue and decided to hold a public hearing on the care and maintenance of the sidewalks. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 29th, 2008 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. A legal notice will be printed in the Exeter Newsletter and will be posted at the Town Office, the library, and the Post Office.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 8th, 2008 Selectmen's Meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant